IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on line 8 of page 2 and ending on line 3 of page 3, with the following:

Routing in the overlay network 900 is performed by routing to a destination node through neighboring nodes. Assume the node B is retrieving data from a point P in the zone 914 owned by the node C. Because the point P is not in the zone [[911or]] 911 or any of the neighboring zones of the node B, the request for data is routed through the neighboring zone 913 owned by the node D to the node C owning the zone 914 where point P lies to retrieve the data. Thus, a CAN message includes destination coordinates, such as the coordinates for the point P, determined using the hash function. Using the source[[s]] node's neighbor coordinate set, the source node routes the request by simple greedy forwarding to the neighbor with coordinates closest to the destination coordinates, such as shown in the path B-D-C.

Without considering proximity information about nodes, CAN and other types of overlay networks operate far less efficiently than what is optimally possible. For example, referring to the CAN overlay network 900, the node B may select the node D when routing to the point P, because node D's coordinates may be closer to the destination [[then]] than node A's coordinates. However, the number of logical hops in the overlay network 900 may be much less than the number of network hops in the physical network when routing to the destination node. For example, there may be 100 network hops in the path B-D-C and 50 network hops in the path B-A-C. Thus, by not considering the underlying network topology and selecting the path with more network hops, more network traffic is generated and latencies are increased.